

Proof of Nazi Horrors Shown to Congressmen

Barbarism at Worst, Says One After Visit as Eyewitness at Eisenhower's Request

BY DON WHITEHEAD

BUCHENWALD PRISON (Germany) April 22, (AP)—Eight American Congressmen walked among the horrors of Buchenwald Prison today and got shocked eyewitness proof of a Nazi world in which human life was not worth that of an animal.

They came at the personal invitation of Gen. Eisenhower, who wanted them to see for themselves this village where decency was torn aside and men died like beasts in one of Germany's worst butcher shops.

"This is barbarism at its worst," said Rep. Gordon Canfield (R.) N.J., "and it is a bad commentary on civilization. Gen. Eisenhower has presented proof of the atrocities. This bears out everything he or anyone else has said."

With Canfield were Reps. Carter Manasco (D.) Ala., Henry M. Jackson (D.) Wash., Earl Wilson (R.) Ind., Albert Rains (D.) Ala., Eugene Worley (D.)

and prison numbers tattooed on the arms were like something out of a nightmare.

In the courtyard near by was a pile of ashes and bits of bone—the remains of the dead burned in the 12-furnace crematory. In the furnace grates lay blackened portions of skulls, and in one was a body which the fire had not entirely consumed.

None Emerged

Below the furnaces was a room from which the prisoners said none of their number ever emerged alive. Along the wall were hooks like those in a butcher shop. Bodies—and the prisoners said some that still had life—were hung there until the furnaces were ready.

Yet somehow the dead were not as pitiful as those hulks of men and boys walking about the place. There was death in their eyes, but they still moved and talked—zombies created by the Nazis.

Whenever a vehicle stopped these people crowded around it staring with vacant eyes.

In one barracks which housed Nazis S.S. troops, the American camp commandant Maj. L. C. Schmuhl of Michigan City, Ind., had put 800 children most of whom had been evacuated from the dread Oswiecim camp in Poland by the Germans.

Only Life Recalled

The youngest of them was a boy who had spent four of his eight years as a prisoner of the Nazis.

He remembers nothing but prison life. He has no recollection of his father or mother or any life except that within Buchenwald.

There was another 9-year-old who had been a prisoner for three years. He has the face of a 16-year-old. One of the boys was bald and gray; his eyes were those of an old man.

Most of them are Polish Jews who were brought to Buchenwald to work. None of them knew what had become of their families. Some had a faint remembrance of their mothers and fathers.

Look of Starvation

For months their daily diet had been a piece of bread, a small bit of margarine and a liter (about 34 ounces) of thin soup.

Their arms were thin and emaciated and there was the look of starvation in all their faces.

But now they are getting milk, bread, soup, butter, jam, honey, sugar, eggs, chocolate, peas—food captured from the German army and now being used to feed Buchenwald's thousands.

"It's hard to say how the treatment will affect these boys," said Col. William E. Williams of Austin, Tex., who is directing the medical care of the prisoners.

"Perhaps the worst part is they have just lost that part of their childhood which plays such an important part in a normal being."

Parliament Committee Reports on Buchenwald

LONDON, April 22. (AP)—Members of the Parliament committee returned today from Buchenwald and agreed that "there has been no exaggeration" of the horrors at the German concentration camp.

Tex., Marion T. Bennet (R. Mo., and Francis E. Walter (D.) Pa. They were in England on various missions when they received the invitation from Eisenhower to make a special trip to Buchenwald.

Each said he was shocked almost beyond belief at what he saw and was told by the prisoners.

"This is the most horrible thing that anyone could conceive," said Manasco.

Jackson said, "We heard atrocity stories from the last war which were not verified, but now we have seen them with our own eyes and they are the most sordid I have ever imagined."

Lifeless Eyes

That is the reaction of everyone who goes through this camp of horrors—a camp where emaciated bodies are still stacked like cordwood, where bodies were shoved into furnaces and burned, where men were hung on spikes like sides of beef until they died, and where thin emaciated children look at you from great lifeless eyes because they remember nothing but prison life.

The Americans liberated 21,000 prisoners in Buchenwald 11 days ago and conditions have improved considerably since then, but there is no way to erase this tragedy as long as the shambles of humanity who were the prisoners wander about the place waiting until somebody takes them home.

Starved to Death

Hundreds of Americans, British—and German civilians from the near-by town of Weimar—visit the camp daily to see the living dead and be convinced that the report of Nazi atrocities is not just propaganda.

Behind one building was the most gruesome sight I have ever seen—bodies piled up on each other like logs ready for mass burial. They were pitifully thin and wasted, with the skin tight over bones and purple faces contorted into expressions of suffering. They simply starved to death.

Beside this stack of 40 bodies was a truck with some 60 naked dead. Their bodies with names